EXEGO: All and a

## **Coshocton County Commissioners**

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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** 

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October 29, 2003

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 Twelfth St. SW, Room TW A-325 Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice - WT Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We understand that the FCC has taking action to address issues some agencies have encountered concerning the interference in the 800 megahertz band, and we commend your stance. However, we are quite concerned about the serious consideration being given to the Consensus Parties plan, which will entail great expense, time and effort toward an end which we believe is counterproductive in its nature.

The problem of public safety interference occurs in densely populated urban areas, where the "perpetrators" of the problem should be held accountable for its solution, utilizing technology, private industry assistance and accepted best practices. The proposed broad approach to the problem will result in unnecessary disruption and expense, not to mention likely prolonged litigation.

More importantly, the Consensus Parties plan would effectively freeze all requests of non-public safety users, such as public utilities, to seek additional bandwidth, making it impossible for utility companies to expand their radio systems to fill in coverage gaps. These gaps tend to occur in rural areas, and this plan would impair the ability of electric utilities to communicate effectively during emergency situations, such as storm power outages. There is a necessary partnership between public safety agencies and electric utilities, both of which are "first responders" to downed power lines and other emergency situations. Additionally, public safety agencies frequently share tower sites with electric utilities, a partnership which could be jeopardized under the Consensus Parties plan.

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The county's involvement with public service agencies gives rise to our concern over any impairment of utility communications systems, and we urge your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

COSHOCTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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